

2023/24
SEMESTER 2
REVIEW

Celebrating



HIGHLIGHTS

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INTERNATIONAL
& PROUDLY BAHAMIAN



FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Dear Students, Parents, Guardians, Alumni and Friends,

Here we are at the end of another action-packed, rewarding and successful school year at St Andrew's!

In this newsletter, you'll find a review of many of the exciting opportunities provided to students over the last five months. I'm indebted to our wonderful faculty and staff for all the learning activities, clubs, sports, service learning projects and trips they've organised and delivered. These have all been in line with our school values, ensuring that students receive an exciting, challenging and balanced experience here at school. Much of what you'll see in the coming pages falls into the category of "above and beyond" - activities which aren't in teachers' core job descriptions, but which they plan and run out of dedication to our students and to St Andrew's. We wouldn't be the special place we are without them.

The newsletter is really only a snapshot of the vibrant learning community that we are: at 24 pages, it's probably already a lot for you to get through, but I think the variety of content speaks to the range of opportunities our students can access. Many parents will be familiar with the artistic, athletic and service news from their own child's experience. If not, please consider encouraging them to join in more when the new year begins in August. We now know that continued participation in extra-curricular activities predicts vastly improved chances of success at college and in later life. Maybe something to discuss as a family over the summer?

I want to pay tribute here to Mrs Nicky Saddleton, our outgoing Board Chair, and also to Mr Bruce Stewart, former Board Co-Chair and pioneer of our new solar project. Both have given countless hours in support of our school and, as you'll read about in the next two pages, have helped ensure that our school is in a fantastic place going forward. In addition to the solar project, our student bathroom renovations are well underway. This has been a top parent request for many years and so seeing demolition and construction work underway on campus has been extremely satisfying.

Please enjoy this review of our semester at St Andrew's. I think the school spirit and community you'll find there show that the best is yet to come! Have a wonderful summer

Gordon McKenzie
Principal

OUTGOING CHAIR OF ST ANDREW'S INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL BOARD NICOLA SADDLETON, WELCOMES NEW CHAIRMAN FRANON WILSON



The St Andrew's International School Board is pleased to announce the nomination of Franon Wilson as the new Chairman of the Board. Franon is taking over the helm from Nicola Saddleton who has played a pivotal role as Co-Chair for three years and as Chair for the last year.

"My time on the Board evolved naturally from being a part of the Marketing Committee and being engaged to do a complete rebranding of the school," said Mrs. Saddleton. "We did extensive research and coming out of that I gained unique knowledge of the school and this market. I worked closely with the board through that process. Once the project was completed it was important to make sure that the brand was being implemented correctly and aligned with our motto, "Ethics and Excellence." Our brand is much more than symbols and advertising. It's about the responsibility of upholding our philosophy and I became the ambassador for ensuring there was oversight to that vision when I joined the board."

In her six years on the Board, Mrs. Saddleton has seen many challenges and played a critical role in helping navigate the school through the challenge of the pandemic. "In my second year on the Board, the school changed Principals and I became co-chair along with Bruce Stewart, in the early months of the pandemic in 2020. Together, with Gordon McKenzie, we had to steer the school through unchartered territory. I could not be prouder of how we together handled and navigated our school through this difficult time. St Andrew's evolved in a resilient way after COVID and we achieved a great deal during that uncertain period, it has set the foundation for what is now happening today. We are all very grateful to Principal Gordon McKenzie for his incredible management of the school and his continued support and guidance has made it easy for the Board to achieve what we have together."

During Mrs. Saddleton's six years, The Board has added Advancement, Sports & Governance committees that promote fundraising, school pride/sports and best governance practices. They have also steered a major solar project which just broke ground this week, they also began renovations on bathrooms and have taken the school through the CIS and IB accreditation, during which the Board received a commendation. The Board has also developed a strategic plan that is ready for imminent launch.

"We are so pleased to welcome Franon Wilson as the new nominated Chairman. We have built an amazing foundation for him to springboard from the plan and fly," adds Mrs. Saddleton. "He is very action orientated, lots of energy, is very active in the school community and will look at everything through a fresh lens."

Franon Wilson, President of Arawak Homes and an alum of St Andrew's International School (and an Arawak!), has served for two years on the Board to date. He has been a part of the Sports Committee and has also helped coach softball. "I feel blessed to have been so welcomed to a group that allows members to share ideas and get involved," said Mr. Wilson. "Serving on the Board is completely voluntary, and we are eternally grateful for those people who have given so much to help get the school to this point. As a community we are thankful to all those who are prepared to serve not only on the Board but also Committees including our PTA. We have a lot to accomplish and we will bring our collective talents together to continue to move the school forward."

As his new tenure begins, Mr. Wilson looks to the whole school community to become involved. "We wish to thank all parents and guardians for trusting their children to St. Andrews International School. The Board is focused on upgrading our facilities and to accomplish that we will need everyone's support. Tuition helps to keep the doors open, but tuition alone isn't enough to pay for upgrades. Whether it's by encouraging your company to make a donation towards a project or simply taking out an ad in a booklet, we need your support to help make the experience children are having now even better and we look forward to your ongoing support. St Andrew's International School is resilient and is lead by a Board that prides itself on its integrity as it continues to build foundations that will carry the school for decades to come."



ST ANDREW'S solar farm

SUSTAINABLE ENERGY INITIATIVE

On behalf of the St. Andrew's International School Board of Directors and the Special Projects Committee, we are very proud and pleased to announce the ground breaking for our SAIS Sustainable Solar Energy Project at our beautiful Yamacraw campus.



This 1st Phase will be a ground based photovoltaic solar farm capable of generating almost half of our electrical consumption. Bahamas Energy and Solar Supplies Ltd. (B.E.S.S.) was the successful bidder selected by SAIS, and we look forward to working with them to complete our first Solar infrastructure project as we complete our 75th anniversary year as a school.

The Board of Directors of St Andrew's International school would like to say how proud we are to be launching this energy reduction initiative. Our electricity costs are astronomical and this solar energy solution will offset expenses that can be put to much better use and help the continued development and growth of our school. We also look forward to using this as a tool to educate our students on sustainability concepts that not only help us protect our planet but can also utilise smarter ways to harness nature's natural energy.

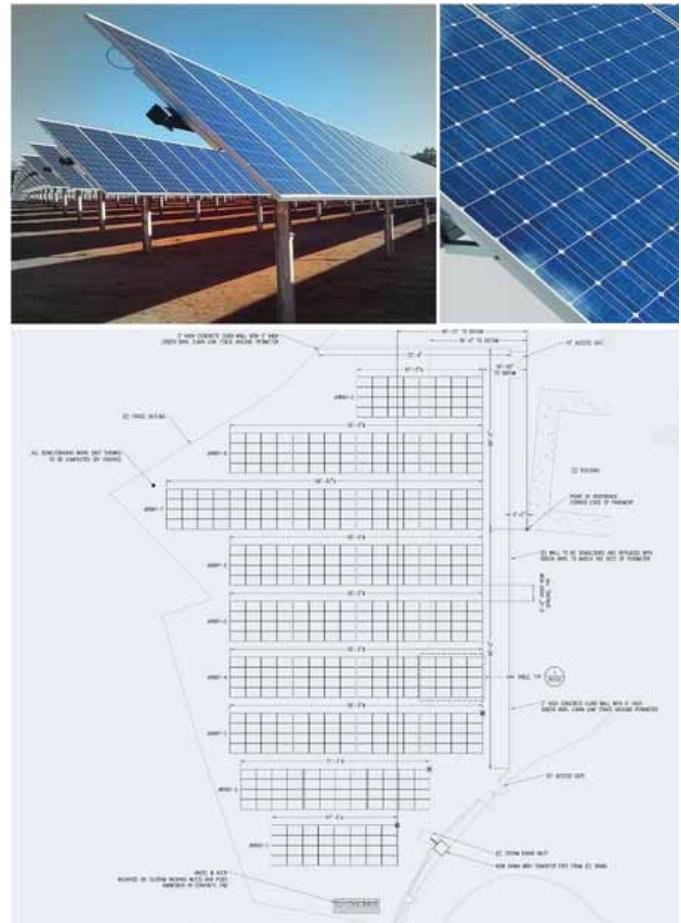
Energy savings generated from this project will be redirected to campus improvement projects. With our bathroom renovations now underway, this will come at the perfect time.

We would like to acknowledge Bruce Stewart's stewardship of this innovative project. His technical know-how and industry knowledge has led us to partner with one of The Bahamas' leading solar experts and company for a viable solution.

We would also like to thank and acknowledge Barbara Thompson, whose legacy gift to St Andrew's has allowed us to initiate phase one. She was not only passionate about St Andrew's School and education but she was a champion for the environment, she would be very proud to know we have chosen to use her gift to invest in the school's energy reduction. We will be honouring her in greater detail once phase one is completed.

Other donors have contributed significantly to this project anonymously and we are hugley grateful for their support.

(Pictured above are Mr Godfrey Thomas from BESS, a St Andrew's alum, along with members of the Board and Special Projects Committee, School Eco Clubs, and the St Andrew's Foundation.)



The L.E.A.P. Programme

March saw the inception of the Lyford Cay Foundation's L.E.A.P. (Learning Enrichment to Accelerate Progress) programme at our school. A newly formed partnership between the Lyford Cay Foundation, St Andrew's and E.P. Roberts Primary school emerged. The excited students were bused to St Andrew's School on Saturday mornings. They brought along some of their school's teachers who worked alongside St Andrew's teachers to plan and execute engaging lessons. The programme provided exposure to new facilities, academic rigour and fun for the children.



Primary School Student of the Year Melissa Juarez Cruz placed 8th

On Saturday, June 1 our very own Melissa Juarez Cruz placed 8th out of 125 of the best and brightest primary school students from across The Bahamas at The Bahamas Primary Student of the Year competition. We are immensely proud of Melissa! Earning a ranked finalist position in the top 10 is no easy feat and is a testament to her commitment to ethics and excellence! Melissa won a \$4,000 scholarship and a laptop computer. At a separate ceremony on Friday, May 31 Melissa was also awarded the Medal of Excellence by Prime Minister Philip Davis.



PYP Exhibition

The students were abuzz with excitement and anticipation on the afternoon of April 25th, 2024. It was finally time for them to unveil what they had been working on for 10 long weeks! The students of Grade 5 began their PYP exhibition journey in October 2023. They brainstormed ideas and studied the SDGs (Sustainable Development Goals). The students then chose topics of study that they felt most strongly about. This year we had many scintillating topics which included Economic Depletion, Hunger, Inflation, Cancer, Diabetes, Mental Health, Gender Equality, Marine Habitat Destruction, The Queen Conch, Air Pollution, Deforestation, Climate Change, Land Pollution, Water Pollution and Poverty. The students formulated questions and researched answers. They were mentored by a fantastic group of volunteers who helped to steer them in the right direction. All in all, upon the conclusion of the Exhibition evening, the students demonstrated their creativity, courage, their knowledge, and their excellent communication skills. A fantastic time was had by all.



Sensory Science Fair

PK-2 students participated in a Sensory Science Fair after their inquiry into the five senses. The students were asked to explain to their parents how each sense works and demonstrated the various sensory experiments and explorations performed throughout the unit. Each student was asked to complete a reflection sheet showing the knowledge gained and shared during the Fair.



CAMP BAHAMAS Trip

Our Grade 5 students took part in an unforgettable week-long trip to Camp Bahamas on Eleuthera for an enriching experience that combined adventure, education and team building. From sailing across turquoise waters to soaring through the air on zip lines, every moment was a lesson in exploration and discovery. One of the highlights of the trip was the series of educational excursions that allowed students to delve deeper into the natural wonders and history of the island of Eleuthera. Guided tours through caves and ocean holes provided fascinating insights into these unique geological formations while kayaking expeditions offered the chance to observe marine life up close in their natural habitat.

Adventure seekers found their thrill in activities such as sailing and zip lining, where they learned the importance of teamwork, communication, and trust. A particularly memorable day was spent at Half Moon Cay, where Mr. Knowles orchestrated an incredible experience that included horseback riding along pristine beaches, water sports, and stingray encounters.

We extend our heartfelt gratitude to Mr. Knowles and his staff at Half Moon Cay, Mr. Albury and all the staff at Camp Bahamas, and our chaperones, Ms. Beer, Mrs. Bain, Mr. Strachan and Mrs. Azikiwe for their dedication in making this trip an unforgettable one for our students. Together, they have created memories that will last a lifetime.

Primary Inventors Day

At the conclusion of our Inventions unit of inquiry, Grade One hosted an exciting event! Parents were welcomed into class for a day filled with creativity, as we embarked on creating our very own inventions. The excitement was palpable as families came together to brainstorm, design, and build innovative creations. Laughter, teamwork and a spirit of exploration filled the air, making it a truly memorable experience for everyone involved.



Grade 3 Field Trip to Clifton Heritage National Park field trip to Clifton Heritage National Park

Students visited the Clifton Heritage National Park as a culminating activity for their Migration inquiry unit. The students explored past civilizations that migrated to The Bahamas.



Fairy Tale Day

"Once upon a time in Kindergarten, during our unit of inquiry 'Just Imagine,' a magical fairytale took place. The students dressed as their favorite characters danced to ballroom music, and enjoyed an afternoon tea party. The students had a ball!



Grade 3 workshop with local artist Jackson Petit

While Grade Three students were learning about migration, Mrs. Rolle invited Haitian Bahamian artist, Jackson Petit to share his work and demonstrate some of his techniques. Students enjoyed exploring Mr. Petit's methods.



Grade 4 Science Fair



To bring the final Grade 4 Unit of Inquiry - States of Matter, to an end, students led a science fair to demonstrate their experiments that they researched, conducted and reported on using the Scientific Method and presented on trifolds. Students had to conduct experiments for parents first thing in the morning, and then later on for the other Primary school grades as well.



PK1 Wheelie Party

PK-1 ended their last theme with a "Wheelie Party", where students explored various types of transportation on land, water, and air. They brought in bicycles, scooters, and tricycles, transforming the ELC parking lot into a riding park. Before riding, the students learned the road rules. They had fun riding their own vehicles and trying out their classmates' vehicles, resulting in plenty of sharing and enjoyment.





In May we celebrated the accomplishments of our students in the Creative Arts department. In our school cafeteria, the art exhibition beckoned visitors to explore its depths. The exhibition showcased a diverse array of artwork, ranging from 3-D models to intricate paintings. It was exciting to see work ranging from students in PK-1 through Grade 12.

Following the art exhibition, the annual end of year concert commenced. As the music reverberated through the hall, bodies swayed and spirits soared. There was a wide variety of talent on display, from junkanoo performances to choir numbers to instrumental pieces, and drama performances. It was truly an evening to celebrate our students.



Pre-School Learning

Throughout the school year, our students have made tremendous progress in their learning, independence, and social skills. Students recently concluded the theme, "Meeting Math," which focused on strengthening their math foundations. This thematic approach not only enhanced their mathematical abilities but also fostered critical thinking and collaborative learning skills. Beyond academics, our students engaged in various activities that promote well-rounded development. They participated enthusiastically in Sports Day, celebrated birthdays and different cultures, and even learned how to swim. These experiences have been instrumental in building their social skills and independence, preparing them for future success both inside and outside the classroom.



Pirates!

THE MUSICAL
BY JOHN JACOBSON & ROGER EMERSON

Our hearts are still singing from the incredible production *Pirates! The Musical*. A huge shout out to the amazing cast, crew, and everyone who made *Pirates! The Musical* a swashbuckling success!

You've whisked us away on an unforgettable adventure filled with laughter and fantastic tunes. And to our fantastic audience, your energy and cheers made every performance an unforgettable voyage. Thank you for joining us on this musical adventure! Until we meet again on the high seas, yo ho ho!





sports day

Sports Day was a fantastic event that saw athletes from grades 2-12 gather on the school's extensive fields to compete in a day of athletics and relays. The field had been marked out with a 4 lane 400m track and our newly dug pit saw both triple jump and long jump action.

Students competed for their houses in short and long distance events, jumps, and throws. Grades 2-5 took part in additional skills based relays and the secondary school enjoyed the addition of a highly competitive tug-of-war. After all of the points were tallied, Lucayan House emerged victorious, but it was the sportsmanship, determination, and effort from the students that ultimately won the day.



The Run

Delayed until late spring this year, the RUN 2024 saw some variations to the route and format but no change to the individual determination and effort demonstrated by all of St Andrews's students. Students were given the choice of participating in the fun run or a competitive race, both over the same distances. It was great to see everyone get involved, including many teachers and parents. The races were highly competitive across all of the age groups but it was Arawak who ultimately managed to accrue the most points and emerge as this year's winners.



This year the House Soccer tournament for primary took place on the schools main fields. Competition took place in two age categories, Grade 2/3 and Grade 4/5. It was fantastic to see so many enthusiastic students participating in the event. Hard defending and some great passes meant that the majority of games were very competitive. At the end of the event it was Lucayan who emerged victorious with the most points.



Get Active Saturday

On February 24, our St Andrew's Community came to life with its Get Active Saturday event! In celebration of 242 Day the event featured a pop-up market of "Bahamian Tings"- arts and crafts as well as native dishes, including stew conch and johnny cake and conch fritters. Students, parents, friends and community partners also participated in a range of Creative Activity and Service initiatives. From ultimate frisbee, tennis and a pop up market to Heart & Sole charity shoe drive, art & crafts, and 24-Hour theatre performances, there was lots to see and do! The Get Active Saturdays initiative is an extension of the CAS program providing CAS credit experiences in a vibrant setting and simultaneously invites family, friends, and community partners to gain an appreciation for the uniqueness of our IB programmes.



BAISS Swimming

The closure of the island's 50m swimming pool meant that BAISS swimming was delayed from the autumn with no date confirmed until just before the event in late February.

St Andrews swimmers nevertheless stepped up and performed brilliantly both individually and as a team. With individual gold medals for Zion Gibson (Grade 11), Tia Adderley (Grade 11), Michael Fox (Grade 10), and Kaalen Ferguson (Grade 7), we also came away with a further 7 individual silver medals and 7 individual bronzes—furthermore, our relay teams podiumed in four races with one silver and three bronze. The whole team was a credit to the school. Our hope will be next year to have more swimmers in the junior category, to once again challenge for a top-three finish.

BAISS Track and Field

The BAISS Track and Field almost didn't happen this year due to scheduling difficulties and building delays, but when it did, St Andrew's was there in force with over 65 students representing the school. Against some of the best athletes in the country, we were able to make several finals and secured podium places both on the track and in throwing events.

We ended with a mid-table finish and notable performances from Grace Farrington, Trace Russell, Emma Barigelli, Joel Fernander-Francis, Taylor Moss, David Bain, and Ellianne Higgs (among many others), we had much to celebrate.



Photo credit: The Tribune

BAISS SOCCER



The BAISS Soccer season did not disappoint this year with all four of our junior and senior teams progressing to the playoff stage of the competition and three making the finals. With a combination of beginners, keen to make their mark and be part of the competition and seasoned players, the teams entered the season with high hopes. They understood that there was a target on their backs as a consequence of previous success, and felt they had something to prove.

The Junior Boys team started the season strongly with a dominant win over a strong Windsor team, setting the stage for an unbeaten streak that carried them all the way to the BAISS Soccer final. They upheld their undefeated record through a tense penalty shootout in the final, ultimately lifting the trophy for the second consecutive year.

The Senior Boys started the season with a determined win, but a run of defeats mid-season left them still fighting for a place in the last four. Their last game of the season against Windsor ended in a tie which proved decisive and the team made it into the playoffs. This is despite losing key players this year and fielding several athletes new to the sport.

Congratulations to all our students for their hard work and dedication!

Junior Boy-Champions
Senior Girls- Runner Up
Junior Girls-Runner Up





BAISS Volleyball

April 29 - May 9 were filled with exciting and intense volleyball matches for our Sr. Girls and Sr. Boys teams. Uncertain with numbers, we invited some of our Jr. Girls to play with our seniors and they made a huge impact! Our teams fought hard competing in up to three games a day and left it all on the court. Our Sr. Boys ended the season on a high note by winning their final game in a nail biting three set match. Their hard work and long hours of practice from January until the end of season truly paid off. Our Sr. Girls finished with a record of 4-8, while our boys finished with a record of 5-6. Our returning members have already begun planning for next season and are ready to show everyone what we Hurricanes can do!



Primary National Track and Field

For the first time in many years, St Andrews took a small team of athletes to the Old Thomas A Robinson Stadium to compete in the National Primary Schools Track and Field meet. This saw athletes from Grades 4-6 competing against athletes from both New Providence and across the family islands. Short notice meant that only a small team was taken and we were without Grade 5 who were away on a trip. With Medals in all three colours, our small team pushed well above their weight. With relay success in the 4x400m, we also saw medals in 800m, shot put, ball throw and 100m. Next year we intend to take a bigger team and try to build on our success. A special mention should go to Logan Rolle (G6) who was in the conversation for athlete of the tournament!

Primary Soccer vs Windsor

In an effort to ensure the secondary school did not have all the fun, fixtures were arranged against the Primary school at Windsor. The first fixture saw us take two teams from Grades 3/4 away to them, during which each team played three closely fought matches. We returned the favor on the next day hosting the grades 5/6 on the St. Andrews fields. This time we had three aside teams, and once again games were closely fought. Many of the students made new friends on the fields, and it was a wonderful opportunity for our growing athletes to test themselves against outside competition. The hope is to set up many more fixtures for our primary students with both international and local schools in the next academic year.

Cayman Islands Soccer



Our school was one of two Bahamian teams invited to participate in the inaugural U16 team in the Cayman Islands. Hosted by the Cayman International School (CIS), it was a wonderful opportunity for St Andrew's Students to travel, to play against international opposition, and to meet new friends with similar interests. The young team we took was a credit to the school, finishing day one at the top of the table. Day 2 was a challenge as the level of competition increased. Our boys made it to the semi-finals but were unfortunately knocked out at this stage by Cayman's top club team. The students had a wonderful time and learned a great deal on the trip which they were able to tap into during the BAISS Soccer season.



'Heart and Sole' Shoe Drive

The students of Lucayan House hosted a successful "Heart and Sole" Shoe Drive throughout the month of February. During this community service initiative, students collected new and gently used shoes of all styles and sizes to benefit those in need in New Providence. Organized by the passionate students of Lucayan House, the "Heart and Sole" drive encouraged the entire St Andrew's community to open their closets and donate any unwanted or outgrown shoes. The generous response provided approximately 300 pairs of footwear for distribution in the community. Through this act of compassion and environmental awareness, St Andrew's students have once again demonstrated their commitment to giving back while promoting sustainability. The collected shoes were carefully sorted and distributed through local charitable organizations.



Primary Clubs K-Kids Club of St Andrew's

On Friday, April 26th, 2024, the K-Kids Club of St Andrew's International School was officially registered as a service group with Kiwanis International during an induction ceremony. The members of the club expressed gratitude for the sponsorship and support provided by The Kiwanis Club of Southwest New Providence and they are looking forward to partnering on future service projects.

Visit to Sandilands Geriatric Ward

The students of Lucayan House paid a visit to the Sandilands Geriatric Ward to spend time with the elderly community. The students took cupcakes to distribute to residents and staff, fed residents their lunch and sang musical renditions that created nostalgia for the patients. Students, residents and staff alike, expressed their enjoyment of the visit and hope that this will be a continuous service initiative in the future.





Edu-Inter French Trip to Quebec



Students who went on an immersion trip to Quebec returned enriched with a deeper understanding of the French language and Quebecois culture. Their experience in Quebec fostered lasting friendships and memories that will continue to inspire their language learning journey.

Red Cross Club Fund Raising and Humanitarian Service

Motto: "Serve One Another"

During our recent activities, our club has been actively engaged in community service. On Saturday, May 18th, 2024, they visited Unity House, where we delighted residents and staff with a special lunch and entertained them with our musical talents. Earlier, on Saturday, April 27th, members proudly supported the Bahamas National Red Cross Fair at Arawak Cay, contributing to the event through plant sales and other assistance.



Yale Model United Nations Trip

17 students attended the Yale Model United Nations Conference in Connecticut US in January 2024. They were in various committees on the campus itself. It was freezing with lots of snow, but that did not stop our intrepid diplomats from trekking through New Haven to get to their committees! A lot was learned, friends were made and students now know how to navigate black ice.



RED + CROSS FUN FITNESS CHALLENGE



On Tuesday, April 30th, 2024, the Red Cross Club held its 3rd annual Family Fun Fitness Challenge and AED demonstration to raise funds for The Bahamas National Red Cross. The event successfully raised a total of \$1,362, which was subsequently presented to the Bahamas National Red Cross on Tuesday, June 11th, 2024.

FESTIVAL

OF INTERCULTURAL UNDERSTANDING Week

We are thrilled to share highlights from the Festival of Intercultural Understanding Week, which took place from April 18th to April 25th. This week-long celebration of diversity and cultural exchange was a resounding success, bringing together students, teachers, and families in a vibrant display of unity and appreciation for our rich multicultural community.

The festivities kicked off with a grand opening ceremony on April 18th, marked by a colorful parade of 20 international flags. This symbolic display beautifully showcased the diverse backgrounds and cultures that make our school community so unique and special. As the flags waved proudly in the breeze, we were reminded of the strength and beauty that comes from embracing our differences and learning from one another.

Throughout the week, students and teachers alike participated in a variety of activities and events designed to promote intercultural understanding and appreciation. One of the highlights was the creation of a wall of photographs, featuring images of famous landmarks from around the world. Each photograph served as a reminder of the incredible journeys and experiences shared by members of our school community, and sparked conversations about the importance of global citizenship and cultural awareness. Throughout the week, Mrs. Fernander and her team in the school cafeteria delighted us with a special menu every day, enhancing our cultural experience. DJ Nathan's wide range of world music added an enjoyable atmosphere to our mealtimes.

The closing ceremony of our Festival of Intercultural Understanding was a vibrant showcase of performances celebrating diverse cultures. Highlights included:

- Ballet Performance: A beautiful ballet performance that captivated the audience.
- Chamber Choir: A moving rendition of "We Shall Be Free" by our talented chamber choir.
- Scottish Country Dancing: Energetic and traditional Scottish country dancing that had everyone tapping their feet.
- Guest Speaker: Alumni Danny Lowe shared his enriching experiences of living and working in China, offering valuable insights into cross-cultural understanding.
- Gerald Cash Primary Rake 'N' Scrape Band: A lively performance by the Rake 'N' Scrape band from Gerald Cash Primary, showcasing Bahamian culture.

We extend our heartfelt thanks to the PTA, especially Mrs. Stewart and Mrs. Francis, for the stunning decorations. We also appreciate all the parents who invested their time to prepare delicious traditional food samples from around the globe.

Thank you to everyone for making this festival a memorable celebration of intercultural understanding!



E Clement Bethel National Arts Festival

Every year our students join other students from across the nation to participate in the E Clement Bethel National Arts Festival. This year was no different. From April 22nd - May 3rd, our students participated in many categories; dance, singing solos in pop, broadway, country and performing instrumental solos in brass and Junkanoo Tom Tom. The chamber choir and instrumental ensemble also performed. Our students performed with Hurricane pride and represented St Andrew's with outstanding performances.



Project Potcake

This year the club saw a new logo design, students got to make no-bake dog treats, and participated in a Saturday fair. Club members assisted with collecting donations for Operation Potcake collecting in total:

23 x large towels
4 x small towels
35 x pairs of socks
1 x bag of rice
1 x box of 200 sterile gloves
10 x empty gallon bottles for metal scalpels
3 x large bags of newspapers
1 x yoga mat for padding
9 x pet food water trays
4 x 24 bottles of water for volunteers

Thank you to those that were able to contribute to this great cause.



Kiwanis Builders Club

In March 2024, St Andrew's International School Builders Club was officially chartered as a service group with Kiwanis International. The club is sponsored by The Kiwanis Club of Southwest.

In January in conjunction with Project Potcake, Builders Club helped to collect and donate various items to Operation Potcake to assist with their free spaying and neutering campaign.



Sustainability

ECO FAIR



Hosted by
Secondary
Eco Executives

In celebration of Earth Day 2024, the Eco Clubs of St Andrew's hosted our very first Sustainability Eco Fair! The school hall was transformed into an environmentally friendly, sustainable world where students could become inspired to better serve their planet. Over 200 students from within our school as well as neighboring schools within our community were in attendance. This incredible event was made possible by our amazing community partners who hosted engaging and informative booths. We would like to extend our gratitude to our generous donors and partners: The Bahamas National Trust, Bahamas Reef Environmental Education Foundation, Atlantis, Perry Institute for Marine Science, Fox Hill Nursery, The Forestry Unit of The Ministry of the Environment and Natural Resources, Cans4Kids, Asa H Pritchard and John Bull. Special recognition goes to our weather booth hosted by Ms Monique Palmasano featuring the CoCoRaHs rain gauge that we have on our school campus. Each visiting school was able to receive a rain gauge for their school courtesy of a generous donor. Additionally, each visiting student was able to take home a stainless steel reusable water bottle which was generously donated by Atlantis, aligning with this year's Earth Day focus on Planet vs Plastic.

IF YOU'RE GREEN, JOIN OUR TEAM!

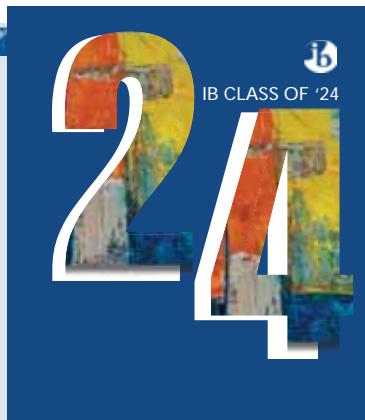




Garden Tasting

On Friday May 17th, the Primary students enjoyed an assortment of delicious and healthy snacks at our annual Garden Vegetable Taste Testing. During eco classes this year, each student was able to plant seedlings ranging from tomatoes, eggplant, rosemary, chives, strawberries, cauliflower and banana trees. It is a rewarding experience to be able to eat something you have planted, watered, nurtured and watched carefully over. This eco class initiative would not be possible without our incredible parent support and we extend our gratitude to all the parent volunteers who generously donated their time and healthy treats.

From fruit platters to vegetable dips, eggplant casserole to carrot cake, vegetable patties to fresh salsa, carrot muffins to banana bread, pumpkin punch to carrot juice, and pakoras, our taste buds were treated to a delightful array of flavours!



THE IB EXPERIENCE ART EXHIBIT

Students from grade twelve completed a rigorous two year course in fine art and were able to put on a tremendous showcase and exhibition at the Native Arts and Crafts Gallery DownTown Bay Street. The work created was excellent, the atmosphere was one of frivolity and excitement, as well as a resounding sense of accomplishment and relief to have crossed the finish line. Special thanks to the St Andrew's family that came out to support and the students that made it all possible with their hard work namely, Maria Fox, Joshua Adderley, Shanon Wilson, Luca Bonetti and Addison Dorsett.



GROUP FOUR

PROJECT

Highlights



On Tuesday, May 21st, our Grade 11 students and Science teachers set off on an expedition to Bonefish Pond National Park for this year's Group 4 Project. The theme of this year's project was 'Survival of the Fittest', inspired by the pioneering work of Jacques Cousteau, the inventor of the aqua lung, who lived underwater for 30 days.

Under the guidance of Bahamas National Trust (BNT) representatives, our students explored the mangrove swamp ecosystem. They observed organism adaptations tested water quality and snorkeled. Using their newfound knowledge, students collaborated to create innovative infomercials envisioning how they would adapt and thrive underwater in the face of rising sea levels.

Each student brought a unique perspective to the project from water purification systems to mechanical housing designs and sustainable food sources. The results were truly impressive, with designs ranging from underground pods to hydroponic farms, showcasing a blend of necessity and luxury for life underwater. Some even extended to genetic adaptations to increase the chances of survival.

We are immensely proud of our students' creativity and dedication to exploring the possibilities of survival in a changing world.

Build a Bridge

St Andrew's International School was represented at the Integrated Building Services (IBS) Annual Build-A-Bridge Competition by a team of Grade 9 and 10 students. This competition, held on April 19th challenged high school students across The Bahamas to use their creativity, innovation, and critical thinking skills to apply concepts learned in Mathematics and Physical Sciences to design and construct a model bridge that could support a significant load using 100 popsicle sticks and Elmer's white glue.

St Andrew's Hurricanes shared third place in the Aesthetics Competition with two other schools.

Congratulations to the team members, Jahan Chatlani-Pickstock, Gregory Pinto, Jorge Pelluz, William Farrington, Joshua Chisholm, and team leader, Eugene Oldfield (not pictured) who made tremendous contributions to the design and construction of the model bridge.





Creative Learning Experiences

In preparation for the external English examinations, Grade 10 and Grade 12 were challenged to design and create a board game that would demonstrate the skills needed for them to be successful. They used their knowledge of assessment rubrics, literary texts, and the exam paper's expectations to devise their board games.



Student Council donates to REACH



Every year, the St Andrew's Student Council undertakes the responsibility of addressing significant global issues and extends its efforts beyond the school to benefit the community. This year, our main focus has been on promoting awareness for World Autism Awareness Day. We arranged an assembly to educate the student body about autism, followed by a successful bake sale.

In line with our dedication to supporting deserving causes, we have chosen to allocate a portion of the funds raised to "REACH," a non-profit organization that supports students from New Providence and the family islands. To demonstrate our commitment to this cause, members of the Student Council, accompanied by senior leaders, made a special donation to Mrs Culmer, a representative from the REACH organization.

First Aid/ CPR/AED Certification



On Thursday and Friday, May 30th and 31st 2024, Eleven (11) teachers and teaching assistants completed the American Heart Association's First Aid/CPR/AED course. For some, it was their first and for others, it was a recertification but for everyone, it was enjoyable and fulfilling knowing that in the event of an emergency, we are more equipped to spring into action.



STEM Week

'Innovate, Create, Design, Engineer, Reuse, and Repurpose' were all words in action during this year's STEM Week. The Science, Mathematics, and Information Technology teachers collaborated to support students 'Mastering Their Disasters'.

Students were tasked with designing and building models which 'weathered storms'. Grade 6, was tasked with designing structures that could withstand the ravages of hurricane force winds and storm surges. Grade 7, was tasked with designing and building structures that could remain standing despite earthquake tremors. Grade 8, was tasked with designing and building flood barriers. ALL structures had to be made from repurposed material and were put to the test during our STEM Week assembly with the student body as judges.

In the Mathematics classes, students also had to create their emergency response plans, considering evacuation routes, schedules, and budgets just to name a few. Throughout the week students worked in teams to create a coordinated plan to best deal with a natural disaster and minimize disruption to the population. In doing so, they gained a deeper appreciation of the challenges and creativity required to apply mathematics to real world scenarios. In Information & Technology classes students were tasked with designing flyers and infographics which outlined their storm preparedness.

Our week ended with a presentation from Mr. Anthony Ryan of the National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA). This project-based learning experience was an interdisciplinary one that helped to foster 21st-century skills in our students. They collaborated, communicated effectively in speech, writing, and digitally, thought critically, and solved problems. We hope for another successful STEM Week next school year!

